

BETSY ROSS.

A quiet house, a quiet street,
A needle and a thread,
A scissors and a square of blue,
Some strips of white and red,
And slender hands that deftly stitched
The shining stars across—
'Twas thus the flag of Liberty
Was made by Betsy Ross.

Though Father Time has worn to rags
The ermine robes of kings,
And left the guns of war to rust
Among forgotten things;
Though crowns and scepters at his touch
Have turned to dust and dross—
Yet not a broken stitch has marred
The work of Betsy Ross.

In stately hall and lowly home
This day its colors wave,
The shelter of the world's oppressed,
The beacon of the brave,
Let glory on the nation's shield
Among the stars emboss
The thread, the needle, and the name
And fame of Betsy Ross.
—Minna Irving, in Leslie's Weekly.

A Pleasant Evening in the Yards

By S. E. KISER.

DIARY of a man who has bought a berth in a sleeping car that is to be started on its journey at three o'clock in the morning, the passengers being permitted to enter at 10:30 and go to bed:

10:45—Ah, this is delightful. There is nobody in the upper berth; the night is just cool enough for comfort, and I'll have over four hours of good, solid sleep before the car starts.

10:56—They have run a switch engine up beside this car, and it is blowing off steam with a roar that would make Niagara sound like the humming of a mosquito. I wonder why they don't save their coal!

11:01—They are now ringing the bell on the switch engine. It sounds as if it were about five and one-half inches from my ear.

11:14—Biff! That was an awful bump. I guess I was dozing. I thought for a minute that we had been wrecked. They must have let a freight train get loose and bang into us. Another shock like that and my heart is likely to jump the fence.

11:16—We're moving. I can't understand it. The agent said our car would stand in the yard till three o'clock.



Oof! Confound it, what are they trying to do with us, anyway? We must have run against a stone wall.

11:29—I wish I hadn't come in so early. What a beauty Grace Leamington is—and as clever as she's pretty. I might have been with her instead of wasting time in this stuffy car for the past hour, too! I'm a Rocky Mountain sheep if they haven't run that switch engine up beside us again. I wonder why they keep ringing the confounded bell! They certainly can't be afraid of running over people while the old machine is standing still at this time of night.

11:40—No use. I can't go to sleep here. They've run the switch engine away, but that fellow in the next berth is going to die in a minute or two. No man can use his breathing apparatus to make such sounds as he's making and live. I wonder if he has a wife and family! It'll be a sad task to break the news to them.

11:53—Oh, heavens, but this is lovely! The conductor and porter are now quarrelling with somebody about his ticket. I was just going to sleep, too. I wish I had sat up and smoked.

12:07—At last things are quiet. The porter has turned down the lights. Now for a good, refreshing sleep. I need it. I wonder if Grace Leamington is likely to get stout in her old age?

12:21—Um-m-m! Heavens! We must have been run into by the fast mail that time. I hope nobody's killed. It's that confounded switch engine. It has come back and hooked onto us. I wonder where we're going now? Oh, well, I don't care much. Danger and death no longer seem terrible to me. Maybe they're going to shove us into the roundhouse. If they'd only keep the car moving I believe I could go to sleep easier than when it's standing still. I wouldn't be surprised if Grace might get rather heavy after she's 35 or 40. Her mother must weigh at least 170 pounds.

12:33—Bang, once more. I'll bet the man who's running that switch engine never had hold of a throttle before. But perhaps his brake is broken, so that the only way he can stop is by running against something. I'm so glad I got here as soon as the car was opened. It would have been a pity if I had missed any of the refreshing rest I'm getting.

12:40—I'm going to report this conductor. I don't believe the company pays him merely to stand in the aisles and gossip with the porter while passengers are trying to get the sleep they've given up their good cash for.

1:02—There it is again. The switch engine's got back. Oh, too, too, too, you, too! You can't disturb me any

more by blowing your whistle than you do by ringing your bell. The next time I get a berth in a sleeper that doesn't start till three in the morning they'll have to have a keeper on each side of me, I'll tell them that. Let her whistle! Don't mind me! I'll bet a hundred dollars that engineer has a grudge against somebody in this car and is trying to give him a case of nervous prostration. Grace takes after her mother. That's plain enough. Still, I don't know but that I'd rather be married to a woman who got a little too plump along late in life than to have one who dried up to nothing but skin and bones.

1:23—We're off again. This is the ninth time they've run us down the track and then run us back, with a nerve-debilitating bump at each end. Oh, well, I guess there's no use trying to go to sleep now. I'm going to take it philosophically and save wear and tear on my temper.

1:37—For heaven's sake! They're yelling at somebody now to get up on the roof of this car and pour water into it. I wonder if they didn't have time to attend to that earlier in the evening, when people were not trying to sleep? I believe this road is run by lunatics.

1:50—I know that man in the next berth is now in the last throes. Confound him, he ought to die! Any man who can sleep through a racket like this deserves an ignominious death. Still, I don't suppose he's to blame, after all. He makes so much noise of his own that he doesn't know anything else is going on. That's the great advantage of being a snorer. I never thought of it before. Now I know why a man who snores is always able to sleep overtime.

2:02—Ouch! That bump nearly threw me into the aisle. I wonder why they always run into us from the direction toward which one's head points? I'll bet there are seven distinct imprints of my skull on the partition between this and the next berth. Oh, if the coupling would only break and let us run into the river!

2:14—They must have hauled us back near the station. Twenty people outside are trying to talk at once. I can't make out what they're saying, but it must be funny. I can hear our porter, who evidently is standing at the car steps, laughing with great enthusiasm.

2:29—Hello! Our old friend the switch engine has returned with steam up and the safety-valve showing what it's there for. I don't suppose they can find room for it anywhere else in the yard.

2:41—Thank heaven! Only 19 minutes to wait in this inferno. Jerusalem! They're going to shunt us around somewhere again. I wonder if it would do that poor fellow any good to pour some kind of a lubricant into his windpipe? It's too bad that Grace's hair is so dark. Otherwise the down on her upper lip wouldn't show at all.

2:53—The Pullman conductor has just yelled to the porter that the train to which we are to be attached is an hour and 50 minutes late. Good-by, proud world, good-by! I'm going out to throw myself in front of the switch engine. If an all-wise Providence felt that I had any right to live this could never have happened to me.—Chicago Record-Herald.

GERMANS FILLING COUNTRY

Settlers Find an Ideal Location in the State of Virginia for a Settlement.

Richmond, Va.—Lunenburg county, along the line of the Southern railway, is filling up with Germans from the north and west. The newcomers are buying farms and engaging in cattle raising, poultrying, fruit growing, grape culture and similar pursuits. More than 40 families have moved in during the past year, and they appear to be happy and contented. They are all making money, living economically, and seem delighted with the conditions down here.

Three years ago a German came to Virginia from Minnesota. He bought a farm in Lunenburg county and began to sow grass and raise cattle for market. He paid \$3,000 for the farm, and less than a month ago he was offered \$12,000 for the farm, declining to sell at any price. He has made cattle raising pay, and pay handsomely.

A colony moved in last month, buying a farm of several hundred acres, which was divided up among the colony, each man getting about 100 acres. They do not spread over an immense acreage, but do attend to small fields, getting the best results, and with less labor than the farmers of this section.

They have begun to demonstrate to the farmers of the state that they know a thing or two, and the example of small fields, well cultivated, is being followed by many of the Virginians.

American Coin for Europe.
Since it seems to be determined that the expenditure of Americans who go to Europe for the summer averages \$1,000 for each person, it follows that \$200,000,000 of the so-called balance of trade of \$400,000,000 this year will be covered by these foreign voyageurs. The rush to Europe this year is breaking all records. The number of first and second class passengers who have already been carried across is 80,000. Thirty thousand more will go in July, and the total for the season is estimated at 200,000.

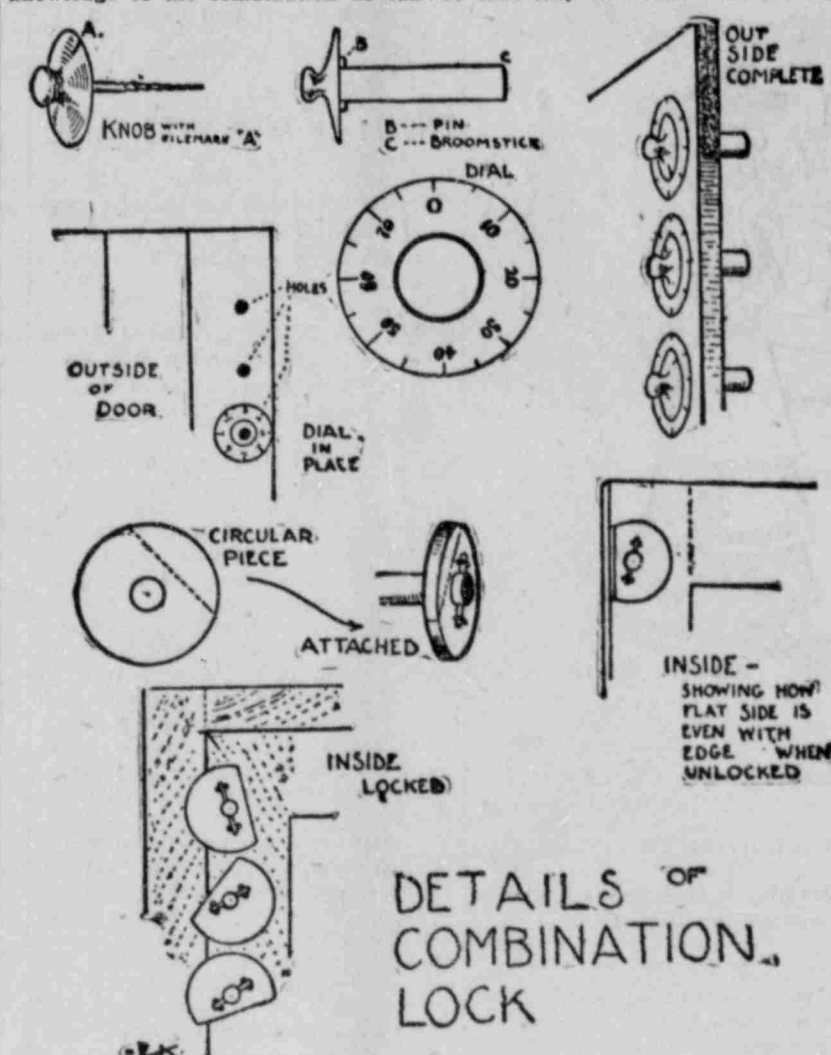
Not a Cash Basis.
Wife—Mrs. Spurgit says she is very particular always to pay her calls on time.
Husband—Well, she's consistent, anyway; the Spurgits pay everything "on time."—Detroit Free Press.

Many men take delight in calling attention to the good there is in them.

A COMBINATION LOCK.

How One of These Ingenious Contrivances May Be Easily Made.

There is a fascination about a combination lock. You invite all to open it; there is no key, just turn the knob right, but no one but you can open it. Any boy with a little skill can make a combination lock that will defy the efforts of the most prying, says the Los Angeles Herald. Then with his knowledge of the combination he can

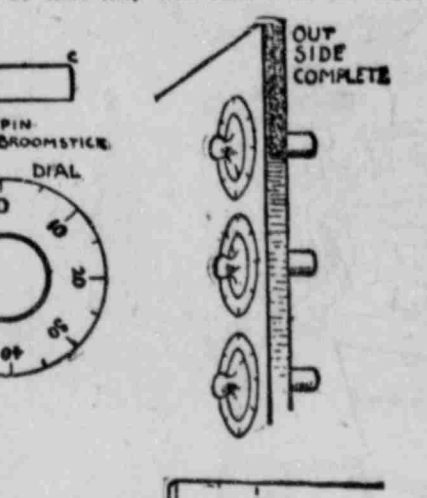


unlock his hut or money box when all others will be locked out.

To make a combination lock secure several knobs, say three, such as are placed upon drawers. With a file make a mark on one side of each and attach the knobs to the ends of a smooth piece of round rod, like a piece of broomhandle. Make a hole in the box cover a bit larger than the broomhandle, so that it will turn easily therein. Make as many holes as you have knobs. Three combinations will ordinarily be sufficient protection. So, now we have three brass knobs with short pieces of broomhandle, each fitting nicely into three holes in the box cover. The distance of the holes from the edge of the cover must be the same. Make three dials with whatever number of letters you desire, and make a hole in each dial the size of

the holes in the cover or larger. These dials are to be tacked tightly on to the cover so the hole in the dial is over the hole in the cover. When the dials are attached and the short rods with knobs are put through the holes, the marks on the knobs will point to the figures on the dials, and the outside of the lock is done.

Next get three round pieces of board, each with a radius a little, quite little greater than the distance the holes are from the edge of the cover. These are to be firmly attached to the inside ends of the broomsticks, close to the cover, so that they will turn with the knob



and not slip on the broomstick. This can be done in several ways. A good way is shown in the illustration.

Before attaching the circular pieces of wood a flat side is to be made on each, so that when the knob is turned to a certain letter or number this flat side will correspond or be even with the edge of the cover, and the door may be opened. Take note of what number produces this result, and after attaching the circular pieces twist the door and give the knob a twist, and invite your friend to open it.

If the knobs are not very firm in the end of your broom handle, to make the lock stronger, put a wooden pin or nail with the head filed off through the piece of the broom handle on the outside, so that it prevents the broomstick from pulling through when the lock is tried.

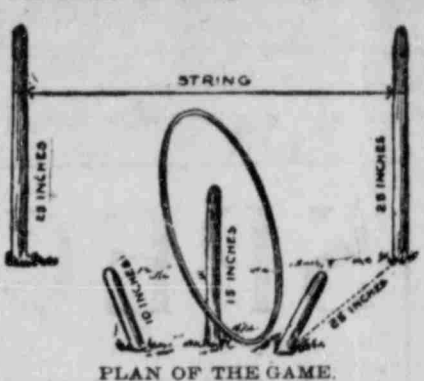
HOOP BOUNCE.

A New Outdoor Game That Calls for Much Cleverness from the Players.

This game is a test of skill in hoop rolling. As a rule, the players soon grow to be quite expert in guiding their hoops, and can perform such feats as "return rolls" and "bouncing hoop" with a great deal of cleverness.

Five pegs or sticks are required in this game, per dimensions shown in diagram, and placed according to measurements shown. Standing at a distance of 15 feet from the pegs each player must endeavor to roll his hoop through either of the two openings, to left or right of the tall peg.

If they pass through safely, they will strike the string or rope and re-



bound, falling possibly over one of the three pegs. The middle peg, more difficult than the rest, counts 20 points, while the two smaller ones score ten points each.

It will be found possible to exercise cleverness in manipulating the hoops, as a jerk or twist or firm roll will tend to give the rebound its necessary force.

First of all, the hoop must be rolled skillfully enough to make it pass through the two openings. If a hoop falls upon a peg before it rebounds from the string, the player loses his chances of count for that time, and other players follow in quick succession.

The string used in this game, on the two black pegs, should be of sufficient strength to give firm resistance to the hoops when they are rolled, and the more strength put in the roll the more apt the hoops are to circle the winning pegs.

A Handkerchief Doll.
To make a dancing doll out of your handkerchief, tie a knot in each of the four corners. Tie another knot midway between the upper corners. Behold a little man. Twist the two lower knots tighter, and he'll be ready to dance for you.

The Game of Handball.

Handball is the oldest game known. Millions of boys and girls play it the world over, yet never give a grateful thought to its inventor. Most of them will be surprised to learn that so simple a thing needed "inventing" at all.

Herodotus and Homer, two famous Greek writers, have preserved the inventor's name, and it is a feminine one. Yes, a woman made the first toy ball, and her name was Anagallis. She was a noble lady of Corcyra, and she gave it, when finished, to the little daughter of the king of Alcinoos.

No other toy has furnished so much amusement, nor is there another so necessary in many games, as is this simple article. It is strange, too, that so few of these games are for girls. Do not forget that the ball was invented by a woman for girls, although boys may be grateful for all the fun they have with it.

Five Meals a Year.

Snakes, though at times they gorge themselves, are great fasters. In the French museum an anaconda 20 feet long was a very small feeder, although he gained in weight. Taken there in 1885, he had only 34 meals during the next five years, consisting of a small goat or a few rabbits.

The interval between these meals varied from 23 to 204 days. He would not touch food unless he was in real need of it, and it was only by watching and noticing when he seemed to be uneasy that his keepers would conclude that he was hungry. During the long fast, which was in 1886, many strenuous efforts were made to tempt or force him to eat, without the least success.

Chestnuts a Profitable Crop.
The boys may be interested to know that chestnuts prove a very profitable crop.

Experts claim that an orchard of chestnuts will bring greater returns to the owner than an apple orchard of the same size, as the nuts are retailed on the street corners at about \$5 a bushel, while the Italian who sells roasted chestnuts receives pay for them at the rate of at least \$3 a bushel, says St. Nicholas.

The tree is one of the most rapid growers, and has been known to bear fruit at five years of age.

When Animals Travel.
Which animal travels with the most and which with the least luggage, asks the Philadelphia Record. The elephant the most, because he never travels without his trunk. The fox and the ock the least, because they have only one brush and comb between them.

ELECTRIC PLANT FOR PEAT

Current Power Passing Through Disintegrates, But Preserves Calorific Power.

An electric process for the treatment of peat has lately been adopted in England. The peat is transformed into a hard combustible which is well adapted for use under boilers. The operation is said to last two and a half hours and the material costs less than ordinary coal. The combustible which is thus produced has a high calorific value and gives scarcely any smoke, reports the Scientific American.

A plant on a large scale is shortly to be installed in Ireland, and if successful it will be an important move in the direction of utilizing peat as fuel under the best conditions. In the present process the peat as it comes from the bogs is placed in cylinders which revolve at a high speed, while a set of air fans is used to drive off the water, which forms about 80 per cent. of the total.

A set of electrodes is placed in the cylinders and connected with a dynamo. The circuit is completed through the mass of the peat between the electrodes. The resistance which the peat offers to the current causes a considerable heat and the latter breaks up the peat and pulverizes it, but without causing it to lose any of its properties.

In order to increase the conductivity of some kinds of peat they add certain chemical products. After this process the peat is treated by a set of kneading rollers which gives it a plastic consistency so as to enable it to take any desired form. From here it passes to an automatic press which forms it into briquettes. It is then ready for use and is taken to the storeroom.

It is to be remarked that although the passage of the current through the peat gives rise to a heating effect, the results obtained in this way are quite different from those which another method of heating would produce. By fire heat the particles of the peat lose their different constituent matters, while the electric heating causes them to disintegrate, thus freeing their cellular material and distributing it throughout the entire mass of the peat. Thus all the particles become adapted for combustion.

To obtain a harder material the disintegrated peat is given a larger treatment with the current. The air is kept out by a tight cover, and the mass is then treated with an adhesive solution so as to unite the particles. The experiments have been made with the process on a large scale and at a great expense, and it is said to have been greatly improved in the details and can now be applied commercially.

FOUND WHAT WAS BURNING

The "Op'ry House" Circle Made Some Good Guesses, But Didn't Hit It.

The noses of a little group of men around the stove in the box office of the op'ry house went up in the air simultaneously. "What's that burning?" said Jake Bentley, twisting his body half around and examining his coat-tails. "Must be somebody's boots." Everybody took his feet from the stove hearth and felt of his soles, relates the Boston Post.

Peggy Hostetter made a minute examination of the smooth yellow cigar he was smoking.

"I hope nobody's been puttin' rubber comb teeth in my pipe," said Uncle Sam Rankin, as he opened the little cap over the bowl, knocked the contents out on the hearth and began stirring among the ashes.

"It's matches in somebody's pockets," said Jason Snodgrass. And then everybody turned his match pockets inside out.

"Well, this'll help some," said Sam Knight, as he filed his pipe with "turtle" tobacco and lit it.

"It's somethin', sure," said Abijah Novel.

"Tis so," said Eph Baker.

"Smells like somebody set fire to a wet dog," said Jake Bentley.

Suddenly a large cloud of smoke settled over the group. Everybody arose and peeked out of the little window. Wilson Snoser, the manager, was standing in front of the store with an advance agent, who was smoking a cigarette.

Eggs to Belt the World.

"If all the eggs handled in St. Louis last year were strung like pearls on a string," writes a Missouri poultry enthusiast, "they would encircle the earth seven times at the equator." Conceive, if you can, this dignified member of the solar system sweeping through the cereulean vastness of the nebular hypothesis at a seven-league stride and wearing a seven-strand belt woven of Missouri hen fruit plucked last year! Such an excursion would cause a cataclysm that would turn cosmos back into chaos; the Milky Way would curdle and clabber; Saturn would draw his rings closer in a shivering shrug; Venus would dart into the sun for protection, and old Jupiter, the planetary heavy weight, would call upon the comets and the meteorites and the shooting stars to hit anywhere above or below the belt, but for heaven's sake not to hit on the belt.—Portland Oregonian.

Oldest Friendly Society.

In old Montpellier there still flourishes a mutual friendly society, under the title of St. Faith, which has an unbroken history dating back to 1220. Statute books dating to 1602 are still preserved, and they are believed to be but reproductions of statutes in force a century or two earlier, which were burned during the civil war of the sixteenth century. During all these years the society has never failed its members in case of sickness, injury or infirmity.

MANASSEH'S SIN and REPENTANCE

Sunday School Lesson for July 30, 1905
Specially Prepared for This Paper.

LESSON TEXT.—2 Chron. 33:1-13. Memory verses 10-12. Read all the chapter.
GOLDEN TEXT.—"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."—Prov. 14:34.

TIME.—Manasseh became king B. C. 686. Amon came to the throne B. C. 641 and reigned two years.

PLACE.—Judah and Babylon.
SCRIPTURE REFERENCES.—Manasseh's mother: 2 Kings 21:1; Isa. 62:4. Manasseh's early environment: Isa. 22:15-19; 23:14-16; 30:1, 3-4. Read 2 Chron. 33:3-8 and compare it with Exod. 13:14. References to idolatry in 2 Kings 23:1-8; 2 Sam. 23; Zeph. 1 and 3; Jer. 5, 7, and 19. Compare them with the picture in 2 Chron. 33. God's promises regarding the Temple: 2 Sam. 7:10-13; 23:29; 1 Kings 8:29; 9:3-9; Ps. 132:12, 14. Compare Manasseh's conversion with Paul's: Acts 9:1-30; 22:1-21; 26:4-20.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

V. 1. "Twelve years, . . . began to reign." In Judah a young man was not of age until he reached 18 years; during the young king's minority regents held the reins of power. "Fifty-five years." His was the longest reign in Judah. The facts of his continued life and large measure of prosperity were very perplexing to the good people of his day, who knew only of rewards and punishments which can be received in this life. We can rejoice that a patient heavenly Father allowed him time that he might repent.

V. 2. "That which was evil." A set phrase, meaning that this king did not properly support Jehovah-worship. It is also undoubtedly true that, in personal and national life, he was guilty of gross wickedness. "Abomination." A strong word, but not too strong for the debasing and licentious orgies with which heathen worship was conducted. "Heathen, . . . cast out." The Canaanites, whom Jehovah had driven from the land in establishing His own people there.

V. 3. "Built again;" Rebuilt. "High places, . . . broken down." It was base indeed for the young man to undo his father's good work. The most popular places of worship were the shrines set up in every village, commonly in an elevated position. Idolatrous rites soon came to be practiced there. "Baalim." The plural for Baal, the name of various deities of the Canaanites. "Groves." Revised Version, "Asheroth." Wooden posts or images connected with the worship of the Phoenician female deity. "All the host of heaven;" the sun, moon and stars. This was a new form of idolatrous worship. It had been introduced first by King Ahas. He probably brought it from Nineveh or Babylon.

Vs. 4, 5. "Built altars in the house of the Lord;" Set up altars for the worship of various false gods in the courts of Jehovah's temple at Jerusalem.

V. 6. "He;" Manasseh himself led his people in the rites of idolatrous worship. "His children;" His sons. "To pass through fire;" In the worship of the Ammonite god, Molech, children were placed in the arms of a great image of the god, which was heated red hot. The place for Molech worship seems to have been in "the valley of Hinnom."

V. 7. "A carved image;" The most obnoxious of all these "groves" was the carved image of the goddess which Manasseh set up in the temple court. "God had said to David, . . . Solomon:" See 2 Sam. 7:10-13; 1 Kings 8:29; Ps. 132:13, 14.

V. 8. "Neither, . . . of the land;" It was God's purpose to establish the people of Israel permanently in the land of Canaan, but His covenant with them was conditional. "So that they will take heed;" Israelites must be obedient to God's commandments in order to maintain the position He had assigned them.

V. 9. "Made, . . . err;" Led and encouraged them in the idolatrous practices above mentioned. "Worse than the heathen;" It was far worse for Israelites to do these things than for the heathen nations of whom they learned them, for the Israelites sinned against light and knowledge.

V. 10. "The Lord spake;" He spoke by the voice of conscience, and also sent prophets to warn them and denounce their wicked ways. The substance of these warnings is stated in 2 Kings 21:10-15. It is thought that most of the prophecies of Micah were messages to Manasseh. "They would not hearken;" They would not heed the messages, but slew them.

V. 11. "The Lord brought upon them;" God permitted His people to suffer this result of their sin. "King of Assyria;" Probably Esarhaddon. See Persons. "Among the thorns;" Better, "In chains."

V. 12. "In affliction, . . . he brought the Lord;" The bitterness of the fruit of sin made Manasseh sick of it.

V. 13. "Prayed unto Him;" The Apocryphal book, "The Prayer of Manasseh," is a model confession of sin, expression of penitence, and appreciation of the forgiving character of God.

Practical Points.

V. 2. Let us set for the measurement of our deeds no lower standard than how they appear in the sight of God.—1 Sam. 16:7.

V. 6. Where the light of true religion fails to penetrate, we may expect grossest exhibitions of cruelty.—Ps. 74:20.

V. 6. God, Who is love, cannot help with complacency upon sin which is destroying His children.—Rom. 1:18.

V. 7. We must take heed that no idols of the heart usurp the place that is due to God alone.—1 John 5:21.